GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4607
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
EXPLOITATION OF RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to locate radioactive elements in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether the country`s nuclear plants are fed with indigenously excavated/produced radioactive elements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy conducts survey, exploration and evaluation of radioactive elements of Uranium and Thorium in various parts of the country. The uranium resources in the country are located in parts of Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Andhra Pradesh whereas most of the thorium deposits are located along the coastal placer deposits of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and few other Coastal States.

(c)&(d) Presently, there are fourteen nuclear power reactors operating in the country. Out of these, twelve reactors are based on Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology and use natural uranium available indigenously. The remaining two reactors are based on Boiling Water (BWR) technology and use imported low enriched uranium.